



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## **Corps reopens Whitney Lake boat ramps and repairs lake infrastructure**

*FORT WORTH, Texas* – With recent rainfalls raising Whitney Lake over three feet, the Corps of Engineers announced today they have reopened area boat ramps.

The lake elevation currently stands at approximately 524 feet, but Corps officials state this is still approximately 9 feet below the normal range.

Whitney Lake Park Ranger, Abraham Phillips advises boaters to exercise caution as lake levels are still low. “Water hazards may be present and conditions have changed which make the waters unfamiliar to many boaters.”

While most ramps were closed due to low lake levels, the Corps of Engineers worked to clear ramps of rock and silt and repair edges and damage. Access to deeper water was also improved while the lake level was low.

“Concrete work for new sliding courtesy docks was also placed on all Corps operated ramps. The docks themselves are on order now and should be installed in the coming months. Despite the negative impacts of the low lake levels this past summer, hopefully the results will be better ramps and deep water access in the future,” said Phillips.

As part of the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act, a major maintenance project on the Whitney Dam has been funded. The work will include repairing and repainting all 17 tainter gates on the dam.

“There seems to have been some confusion regarding the impact of that work on the lake level. No reduction in the lake level is planned or necessary for this gate work to be completed because it sits at almost the normal lake level of 533,” Phillips says. “The most visible impact could be occasional, short term traffic impacts to Hwy 22 over the dam. Work could occasionally restrict the flow to one lane, but should not be frequent or require any detours.”

Park improvements at Cedar Creek and Steel Creek Parks are completed. Both parks have had night exits and gates added. The Corps has also enlisted two sets of volunteers at each park entrance.

Phillips also stated that beginning Nov. 1 the parks will be locked at 10:00 p.m. to provide increased safety and security for park visitors.

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Typically, Corps operated parks open at 6:00 a.m., but as a result of visitor input these two parks will now open a 5:00 a.m.

Many outdoorsmen that use the parks two boat ramps for hunting access or early fishing were concerned with not being able to get on the water early, so the hours have been adjusted at these two locations. Both parks will remain free and available for day use or overnight camping.

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